

Fiscal Year 2015

Missouri

Budget &
Legislative Priorities

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon - Governor

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY
65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON
GOVERNOR

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January 21, 2014

TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE PEOPLE OF MISSOURI:

By working together over the last five years, we tackled historic challenges and made great strides in the Show-Me State. We have maintained strong fiscal discipline and our economy is moving full steam ahead. Missouri employers added more than 40,000 jobs over the last year and Missouri's unemployment rate has been below the national average for four years in a row.

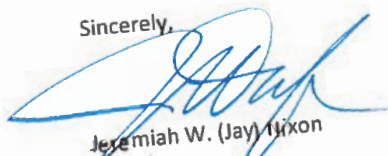
Together, we have balanced the budget and held the line on taxes, while making strategic investments to continue moving our state forward. As a result, Missouri is one of only a few states to hold a spotless, AAA credit rating from all three rating agencies. This sound financial management, along with the continued growth of our economy, will allow us to make needed investments in the upcoming budget.

Our top priorities will continue to unite us – investing in education, creating jobs for Missourians, providing vital health and mental health services and keeping our fiscal house in order.

- **Investing in and improving education at all levels:** To build an economy to compete in the future, we must invest in students today. With high expectations and strong accountability, we will increase funding for early childhood education, K-12 classrooms, scholarships and performance funding for higher education as well as make targeted investments in science, technology, engineering and math.
- **Helping businesses continue to create jobs:** By investing in our workforce, providing startup capital for small businesses, ramping up efforts to increase exports, and continuing to make government more efficient, we will further expand opportunities for Missouri businesses to grow and create jobs.
- **Strengthening our mental health safety net:** We will address gaps in mental health care by expanding our successful Partnership for Hope Program, eliminating the wait list for in-home Medicaid services for the developmentally disabled, continuing our strategic initiative in mental health and rebuilding Fulton State Hospital. Our most significant investment to improve mental health services will be expanding Medicaid to low-income, working Missourians.
- **Expanding and reforming Medicaid:** Each day we don't act, we send our taxpayer dollars to other states, go another day without adding protections for taxpayers and leave nearly 300,000 Missourians without health care. We must work together, now, to get the job done.
- **Balancing the budget while holding the line on taxes.** We can make smart investments which will pay off for years to come while maintaining Missouri's status as a low-tax state.

I look forward to working with you on the important decisions that are before us. Together, we will keep Missouri moving forward.

Sincerely,


Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon
Governor



MISSOURI PROGRESS

- One of 10 top states improving results for taxpayers.
- Top 10 Pro-Business State for the 4th year in a row.
- 7th most favorable corporate tax structure.
- 3rd fastest rate of technology job growth.
- 8th highest high school graduation rate.
- Led the nation in holding down tuition increases.



Governor Nixon and First Lady Nixon at the Governor's second-term inauguration.

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Governor Nixon joins company officials in opening a new research facility in St. Charles.

“These past five years, we’ve been faced with some historic challenges. By working together, we’ve tackled them head-on and made great strides in the Show-Me State.”
~ Governor Jay Nixon

LEADERSHIP:

- Balanced the budget without raising taxes.
- Cut \$1.8 billion in state spending.
- Retained Missouri’s **AAA bond rating**.
- Paid down debt and saved taxpayers millions of dollars in interest.
- Cut the state’s payroll by more than 4,500 positions.
- Signed 21 executive orders to reorganize and improve government operations.
- Made more than 100 additional services available online, such as personalized license plates and educator certification.
- Reduced state agency utility consumption by 24 percent since January 2009.
- Consolidated state offices to reduce administrative costs and overhead.
- Streamlined **environmental permitting**.

JOBS:

- Worked with hundreds of business, education and labor leaders to develop the **Missouri Strategic Initiative for Economic Growth**.
- Secured historic investments in the automotive manufacturing sector to save and create thousands of jobs.
- Made significant investments in workforce training; more than 152,000 workers have upgraded their skills since 2009.
- Cut taxes for small businesses creating jobs.
- Consolidated and modernized Missouri’s economic incentives into the single, business-friendly **Missouri Works** Program.
- Created the **Show-Me Heroes** Program to connect veterans with job opportunities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Governor Nixon visits an Affton School District computer lab.



Governor Nixon leads youth in a 100 Missouri Miles event in Vernon County.

EDUCATION:

- Provided record funding for elementary and secondary education.
- Expanded access to quality, early childhood education to make sure Missouri kids start smart.
- Implemented a performance-based funding model for higher education.
- Created **Western Governors University** (WGU) - Missouri.
- Invested in Training for Tomorrow to develop the workforce of the future.
- Expanded the **A+ Scholarship** Program to nearly every public high school in the state.
- Established an **Innovation Campus Initiative** to train students for careers in high-demand fields.
- Secured a tuition freeze at higher education institutions for two years in a row.

HEALTHY FAMILIES:

- Launched the **Governor's 100 Missouri Miles Challenge** to encourage Missourians to complete 100 miles of outdoor physical activity.
- Helped prepare students for health care careers through Caring for Missourians.
- Signed legislation to protect children by improving Missouri's mandatory reporting laws for suspected cases of child abuse or neglect.
- Protected health care services for blind Missourians.
- Signed legislation that expanded chronic disease screenings for newborns.
- Strengthened laws against the financial exploitation of seniors and people with disabilities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Governor Nixon visits with individuals at Community Opportunities for People with Developmental Disabilities in Lincoln County.



Governor Nixon surveys storm damage in the St. Louis region.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE:

- Implemented a strategic initiative to help communities identify and treat people with severe mental illness before they reach a crisis point.
- Placed liaisons across the state to work with law enforcement, schools and others who work with individuals with a mental illness.
- Required insurance companies to provide coverage for children with autism spectrum disorders.
- Launched **Partnership for Hope** to support Missouri families caring for loved ones with developmental disabilities.
- Developed a health care home model to provide better care and reduce costs.

VETERANS/PUBLIC SAFETY:

- Initiated landmark legislation to take repeat drunk driving offenders off the roads and strengthen DWI enforcement.
- Merged the Missouri State Highway Patrol and Water Patrol into one state agency.
- Established a dedicated funding source for Missouri's seven veterans' homes.
- Signed the **Uniformed Military and Overseas Voters Act**.
- Met with Missouri troops deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Germany.
- Launched the Governor's Faith-Based Community Service Partnership for Disaster Recovery.
- Established the **Emergency Cost-Share Program** to provide relief for farmers facing critical water shortages during the historic drought.

LEADERSHIP



Governor Nixon speaks at the Project Lead the Way Conference in Columbia.

By making Missouri state government more efficient and effective, Governor Nixon has balanced the budget every year without raising taxes or making drastic cuts to vital services. Over the past five years, Governor Nixon reduced the state workforce and eliminated unnecessary government spending. His Fiscal Year 2015 budget recognizes state economic growth while making fiscally disciplined investments that will benefit the state for decades to come.

SOUND FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Missouri continues to be a leader in fiscal discipline. Throughout Governor Nixon's administration, the state has maintained its perfect, AAA rating from all three national rating agencies. Governor Nixon takes his constitutional duty to balance the budget seriously. The Governor is committed to making fiscally responsible decisions based on reliable data. Recently, the **Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative** recognized Missouri as one of ten

states leading the way in improving results for taxpayers by using cost-benefit analyses to drive policy decisions.

TAX CREDIT REFORM

Over the past 15 years, the redemption of state tax credits has grown by 500 percent, reaching a historic high of nearly \$630 million in 2012. The Governor's **Bipartisan Tax Credit Review Commission** recommended a comprehensive package to modify or eliminate many tax credit programs that are not producing a substantial return on investment. Governor Nixon believes that reforms to the state's largest tax credit programs are long overdue and will yield significant future savings for taxpayers.

EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

The Nixon Administration has advanced technology improvements that make state government more efficient and provide additional web-based services to Missouri citizens. To

expand the state's e-government initiatives and improve government efficiency, Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes additional funding to upgrade the state's cyber security systems, modernize legacy systems and address the demand for mobile applications.

ETHICS REFORM

Since his first year in office, Governor Nixon has proposed comprehensive changes to Missouri's ethics laws. Twenty years ago, Missouri voters passed contribution limits with 74 percent of the vote. This year, the Governor renews his call for **bipartisan ethics reform**, including the reinstatement of strict limits on campaign contributions to candidates.

STATE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

Public employees provide vital services to Missouri taxpayers. Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes:

- A three-percent pay raise for state employees effective January 1, 2015.
- Additional increases to address significant turnover and pay parity issues.
- A \$75, per month maximum, matching contribution to the deferred compensation program.
- Funding to ensure employees' health care premiums through the Missouri Consolidated Health Care Plan remain flat for the fourth year in a row.



Governor Nixon greets members of the legislature following his State of the State Address.

MISSOURI NONDISCRIMINATION ACT

Missouri law currently prohibits discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations based on race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, age and familial status. These protections do not extend to individuals who are discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Governor Nixon will work with the General Assembly to prohibit discrimination against all Missourians by passing the Missouri Nondiscrimination Act.

“At a time when partisan paralysis is the norm in Washington, D.C., here in Missouri we’re showing that we know how to work together. ” ~ Governor Jay Nixon

EDUCATION



Governor Nixon visits with students at Fairview Elementary School in Columbia.

Governor Nixon believes our single greatest responsibility is to make sure every child in Missouri has an opportunity to achieve his or her dreams; opportunity starts with an education. With technology constantly advancing, learning needs to be a lifelong endeavor. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2015 budget increases the state's investment in education, from preschool to graduate school to lifelong learning, by over \$490 million.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INVESTMENTS

Governor Nixon knows that early childhood education is a smart investment with a big return. His Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes the following increases for early childhood education:

- \$20 million for grants to make sure children start smart through the Missouri Preschool

“The global competition we’re in for jobs means we don’t just have a responsibility to fund our schools, we have a responsibility to improve them. ”
~ Governor Jay Nixon

Program, nearly tripling its budget.

- \$8.5 million to serve additional children through the First Steps Program.
- \$1 million to provide screenings and parent education for additional high-need families through Parents as Teachers.

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

In today's global economy, Missouri's K-12 schools must be high-tech, rigorous institutions of innovation. All Missouri students should have the opportunity to get an education that prepares them for good jobs. Students need a pathway to progress, whether they are going directly to a career or to college. Governor Nixon continues to make K-12 education a priority. During his administration, math and reading scores have increased and Missouri's high school graduation rate is now the eighth highest in the nation.

Governor Nixon calls on the legislature to put the state on track to fully fund the education formula by 2016. With higher funding, Governor Nixon demands accountability and measureable results - higher test scores, higher graduation rates and tougher classes. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes increases of:

- \$278 million for the Foundation Formula, half the additional amount needed to fully fund the current formula.
- \$15 million for school district transportation expenses.
- \$10 million for broadband capacity so schools can enhance online technology capabilities.
- \$2.3 million to increase the number of high school students taking advanced placement



Governor Nixon gives the Commencement Address at Jefferson R-VII High School in Festus.

exams and dual credit courses in preparation for college.

- \$1 million to improve teacher placement in urban school districts so quality teachers are available in every Missouri school.
- \$1 million to expand partnerships between local businesses, high schools and community colleges through the Innovation High School Initiative.
- \$1 million for dropout prevention and workforce preparation for at-risk youth, delivered in the classroom through programs like Jobs for America's Graduates.

Governor Nixon also will work with the General Assembly to fix the law that led to stress and uncertainty for students, schools and families, as thousands of students have been transported from one district to another.

EDUCATION

COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

By supporting Missouri's scholarship programs and working with Missouri's public colleges and universities to freeze tuition, Governor Nixon has kept college affordable. The College Board's 2013 **Trends in College Pricing** shows that, since 2008, increases in tuition and fees at Missouri's public four-year institutions were the lowest in the nation.

Last year the Governor proposed, and the legislature approved, incentive funding for higher education based on institutions' outcomes. This new **funding model**, developed in collaboration with the state's public two- and four-year institutions, allocates funding based on specific measures of student success, degree completion,

professional certification, financial responsibility and efficiency. Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes an additional \$42.1 million for performance-based funding, a five percent increase for four-year institutions and a four percent increase for community colleges. With this increased investment, Missouri undergraduates at our public universities should not pay any increased tuition next year.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Governor Nixon proposes enhancing Missouri's **Bright Flight** scholarship program to encourage more high-achieving students to stay and work in Missouri after graduating from college. Bright Flight Boost is a smart investment with a big return in the form of a



Governor Nixon announces university agreements for the Missouri Innovation Campus Initiative.

well-educated, highly-qualified workforce. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes \$17 million to offer Bright Flight scholars the option of receiving an additional \$5,000 per year on the condition that they pursue employment in Missouri after they graduate.

The Access Missouri Scholarship Program provides assistance to low- and middle-income students attending a Missouri two- or four-year institution. The program enables nearly 50,000 students to afford tuition at higher education institutions. Missouri's successful **A+ Scholarship** Program provides two years of study - tuition free - for eligible students at Missouri community colleges. Last year, Governor Nixon expanded the program to make it available to every public high school. More than 13,000 students are receiving assistance through the program this year. The Governor's budget includes increases of:

- \$8.6 million for Access Missouri.
- \$6.7 million to complete the expansion of A+ scholarship opportunities for students graduating from public high schools.

HIGH-DEMAND FIELDS

An increased focus on preparing, attracting, training and retaining skilled and educated citizens is critical to Missouri's future in the competitive global marketplace. Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes:

- \$22 million for four-year universities to focus on preparing students for high-demand careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

- \$10 million to renovate St. Mary's Health Center in Jefferson City for Lincoln University. This funding will enable additional students to obtain degrees in nursing and other high-demand programs.
- \$5 million for the Missouri Works Training Program and the Certified Work Ready Community Initiative.
- \$1 million to support the operation of Innovation Campuses which are lowering the cost of education and providing better employment opportunities for graduates.



Governor Nixon visits the University of Missouri to discuss the impact of House Bill 253 on higher education.



Governor Nixon joins officials from General Motors in unveiling the new GMC Canyon, to be built in Missouri.

“ We will continue to hold the line on taxes while making strategic investments in Missouri’s future to create jobs and keep our state moving forward. ”

~ Governor Jay Nixon

Governor Nixon’s top priority has been to grow Missouri’s economy and create good jobs for Missouri families. By balancing the budget, holding the line on taxes and making targeted investments in education and workforce training, the Governor has fostered a competitive climate for businesses of all sizes to expand and invest. In every corner of the state, businesses are hiring, local economies are growing and Missourians are getting back to work.

WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

Last year Governor Nixon worked with the General Assembly to enact **Missouri Works**, a comprehensive strategy to support economic growth and create career opportunities for Missourians. Missouri Works consolidates and modernizes the state’s economic incentives into a single, business-friendly program. Governor Nixon’s administration continues to align workforce programs and education to meet the economic needs of the state and local communities. To advance efforts to create

Missouri's Recent Economic Achievements

- 7th most favorable corporate tax structure in the nation.
- 16th in overall business climate, better than 7 of our surrounding states.
- Top 10 Pro-Business State for the 4th year in a row.
- Received an "A" for corporate tax index, unemployment insurance and electricity costs.
- National recognition for manufacturing resurgence.
- Unemployment rates below the national average for 4 years in a row.

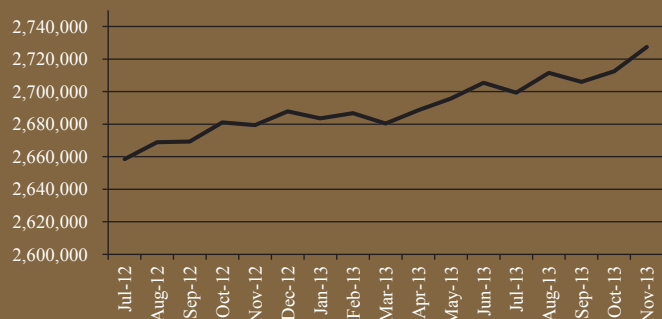
a highly-skilled and competitive workforce, Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes:

- \$4.5 million increase for the Missouri Works Training Program, a 75 percent increase in customized training since 2009.
- \$2 million to provide employment services to the long-term unemployed, laid off workers and other job seekers.
- \$500,000 for the **Certified Work Ready Communities Initiative**.

EXPORTS

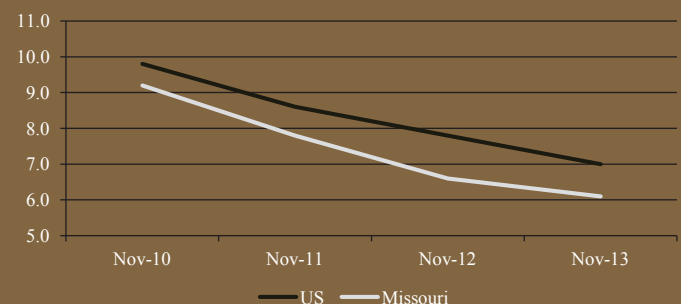
Because exporting Missouri products overseas creates jobs here at home, Governor Nixon makes expanding Missouri exports to other countries a top priority. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes a \$1 million increase to enhance the **Export Missouri** Initiative to assist small business exporters, provide export training for small businesses and promote agri-business and commodity exports.

MISSOURI EMPLOYMENT



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(percentage)



CHILD CARE FOR WORKING PARENTS

Affordable child care is vital to parents' ability to remain in the workforce and ensure children will be successful in school. Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes \$10 million to:

- Increase child care eligibility for more working parents.
- Provide rate increases for child care providers.
- Expand before- and after-school care.



Governor Nixon announces Three Rivers Community College and SRG Global training project in Portageville.

EMERGING BUSINESS PROMOTION

The Missouri Technology Corporation (MTC) is a public-private partnership that promotes entrepreneurship and fosters the growth of new and emerging high-tech companies. Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes a \$2 million increase for MTC to promote

entrepreneurship and generate the growth of new and emerging, high-tech companies. The Governor also supports legislation to leverage private funding for MTC's work in assisting additional entrepreneurs with high growth potential.

MISSOURI'S TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Missouri boasts beautiful state parks, thriving metropolitan centers and many family-friendly attractions. It offers 1,500 miles of trails and was named the "**Best Trails State**." Missouri is the home of the Katy Trail, the longest developed rail-trail in the nation. Missouri State Parks are visited by more than 18 million guests each year. An investment in tourism creates jobs, brings families to Missouri and generates additional resources to keep our state moving forward. Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes funding to improve state parks and historic sites, and enhance efforts to showcase Missouri's tourism opportunities.

MISSOURI'S MILITARY PRESENCE

Fort Leonard Wood, Whiteman Air Force Base and the Missouri National Guard make up a significant part of the U.S. military's presence in Missouri. Troops play an integral role in Missouri's economy and the lives of its citizens. To retain and enhance Missouri's military bases, force strength and federal defense spending, Governor Nixon created the **Missouri Military Partnership**. The partnership is a coordinated effort between the state, local communities and businesses. Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes additional funding to position the state to retain its existing military operations and secure new missions as they become available.



Governor Nixon announces the creation of the Missouri Military Partnership at Fort Leonard Wood.

AGRICULTURE

Governor Nixon's administration continues to advance economic development opportunities in rural Missouri. Governor Nixon supports Missouri farmers and has promoted Missouri's agricultural products, secured trade agreements to increase exports and preserved the state's biofuel industry. Last year, the ethanol and biodiesel industries contributed more than \$1.3 billion and over 6,500 jobs to Missouri's economy. To complete payments, over the next two years, of biodiesel producer incentives, the Governor's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes an increase of \$7.2 million.

Ensuring Missouri's agricultural land remains productive is a priority. Recent severe weather events, such as drought and floods, have increased the need for erosion control and improved water quality practices. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes an increase of \$2.3 million to provide financial incentives for landowners to reduce soil erosion and protect Missouri's agricultural and water resources.

HEALTHY FAMILIES



Governor Nixon addresses Strengthening Medicaid Lobby Day participants in the Missouri State Capitol Rotunda.

“ People who work for a living should have access to affordable health care. ” ~ Governor Jay Nixon

Governor Nixon is committed to ensuring Missouri is a healthier place to live and work. Making it easier for hardworking Missourians to get basic health insurance is the right thing to do – it is the smart business decision and the right human decision. A growing coalition of business and economic development organizations have endorsed Medicaid expansion. It is time to bring affordable health coverage to working families and reform Medicaid.

STRENGTHENING HEALTH CARE FOR WORKING MISSOURIANS

Hundreds of thousands of working Missourians can't afford to get the basic health services they need to lead healthy, productive lives. Missouri is losing more than \$5 million every day to improve the health care of citizens in other states. Continued inaction not only impacts the uninsured but creates an economic loss to communities and businesses throughout the state. By rejecting **Medicaid expansion**, elected officials are forcing Missourians to bear all the costs of the law and reap none of the rewards.

HEALTHY FAMILIES

On January 1, 2014, two billion of Missourians' tax dollars began flowing to 25 states that are reforming and improving their health care systems – including Arkansas, Iowa, New Jersey, New Mexico, Michigan, Ohio, Arizona and North Dakota. Many of them are moving forward with common sense, market-based approaches to help low-income working families afford the basic health care services they need to live healthy lives.

Governor Nixon believes health care for Missourians should be run by Missourians. Governor Nixon proposes expanding Medicaid to cover the working poor, protect taxpayers and promote personal responsibility. The savings and revenue generated will more than offset the cost of covering 300,000 additional Missourians.

GOVERNOR'S 100 MISSOURI MILES CHALLENGE

On June 1, 2013, Governor Nixon and the First Lady encouraged all Missouri families to get outside and take advantage of the incredible resources found in the Show-Me State by joining the **Governor's 100 Missouri Miles Challenge**. Participants were challenged to complete "100 Missouri Miles" of physical activity by the end of the year. More than 12,000 Missourians participated in the **initiative**, logging more than 1.1 million miles, to promote Missouri's award-winning trail system, improve health and encourage fun with family and friends.

Without Action this Year in Missouri

- 300,000 working Missourians will continue to be uninsured – the low-income working poor; working mothers; employees of small businesses; and workers with multiple, low-wage jobs.
- Missouri tax dollars will be spent in other states.
- Businesses will have a significant competitive disadvantage.
- Missourians with mental illness will continue to go without the treatment they desperately need.
- Employers will face an uneven playing field – shouldering the burden of rising health premiums while their competitors in other states benefit from lower premiums.
- Missourians will continue to have to choose between going back to work and keeping their health insurance.

MISSOURI RX REAUTHORIZATION

Missouri Rx lowers the prescription drug costs for more than 227,000 seniors and persons with disabilities. Without reauthorization, the program will expire on August 28, 2014. Governor Nixon calls on the General Assembly to renew this important program and will work with legislators and senior advocates to get the bill to his desk.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE



Governor Nixon meets with Partnership for Hope families in Lincoln County.

“ These past five years we have opened new doors for thousands of Missourians with disabilities, and I remain committed to and passionate about this work. ” ~ Governor Jay Nixon

Governor Nixon has made improving mental health care a priority for his administration. The Governor's budget addresses gaps in Missouri's mental health care system by investing an additional \$259 million.

Last year, he launched a **strategic initiative** to help identify and treat people with severe mental illness before they reach a crisis point and help communities respond to those who do. Funding continues in Fiscal Year 2015 to support

Crisis Intervention and Mental Health First-Aid training, mental health liaisons in communities across the state and emergency room intervention teams.

FULTON STATE HOSPITAL

Opened in 1851, **Fulton State Hospital** is the oldest state psychiatric facility west of the Mississippi River. The outdated buildings are a security risk for staff and are not conducive to the care and treatment of the patients entrusted to

MENTAL HEALTH CARE

the state's care. The Governor's budget proposal includes \$28 million to set aside two-years' funding for bonds to construct a new maximum and intermediate security psychiatric facility in Fulton.

PARTNERSHIP FOR HOPE

Prior to implementation of the **Partnership for Hope**, demand for home and community-based services resulted in a large backlog of Missouri families waiting for help. Because of the backlog, many families waited years to receive the services they needed. In 2010, the Governor launched Missouri's Partnership for Hope to help thousands of Missourians with developmental disabilities live fuller lives. Currently, the Partnership for Hope is serving more than 2,800 people with developmental disabilities in 99 counties statewide and the City of St. Louis. Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes an additional \$3 million for the Partnership for Hope Program to bring the total number served to 3,800.

SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

Governor Nixon proposes the following funding increases in his Fiscal Year 2015 budget:

- \$37 million to expand residential services for individuals experiencing a crisis or emergency.
- \$20.6 million to serve 720 individuals with developmental disabilities, eliminating the current waiting list for these services.
- \$500,000 to fully fund the statutory per diem rate for workers employed through sheltered workshop programs.



CARING FOR MISSOURIANS - MENTAL HEALTH

Launched by Governor Nixon in 2009, Caring for Missourians is a strategic effort to increase the number of students at Missouri colleges and universities hoping to enter the health care field.

There is a critical shortage of mental health professionals to provide treatment to Missourians with developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, mental illness or substance abuse disorders. Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes \$20 million for Missouri's public colleges and universities to educate students for high-demand mental health careers through the Governor's **Caring for Missourians - Mental Health Initiative**.

VETERANS/PUBLIC SAFETY



Governor Nixon signs bills in Cape Girardeau benefitting veterans and current members of the military.

HONORING VETERANS

Governor Nixon continues to stand up for Missourians active in the military and the state's 543,000 veterans. In 2010, the Governor launched the **Show-Me Heroes** Program to encourage Missouri businesses to employ veterans. To date, more than 5,000 veterans have been hired. Missouri is an attractive location for retired military veterans, many of whom are now active in the civilian workforce. In 2009, the Governor signed legislation phasing out the state tax on military pensions by 2016. The Governor's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes additional funding to update the veteran records system and ensure the Missouri National Guard is able to maintain and access Missouri veterans' military records.

SAFE CHILDREN

The Department of Social Services' Children's Division works to improve the well-being of children at risk of child abuse or neglect. Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes an increase of \$6 million for:

- Additional staff to address caseload issues.
- Salary increases for child service workers to ensure that the Children's Division attracts and retains qualified individuals who provide the highest level of care to children in the state's custody.
- Additional training for staff. Training will better equip workers to recognize signs of abuse and neglect, and help workers cope with the personal trauma and stress associated with the cases they manage.
- An educational loan forgiveness incentive.
- Electronic tablets and mobile data entry so staff can work more efficiently in the field.

VETERANS/PUBLIC SAFETY

“ State and local leaders have no greater responsibility than to protect the safety of the public. ”

~ Governor Jay Nixon

STRONG AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

Governor Nixon is committed to keeping Missouri safe. Since taking office, statewide violent crime rates and property crime rates have both decreased by more than 15 percent. To continue support for those dedicated to keeping our communities safe, Governor Nixon's Fiscal Year 2015 budget includes funding for multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Forces, the Cyber Crimes Task Force, training services for fire personnel and additional resources for the [Missouri State Highway Patrol](#).

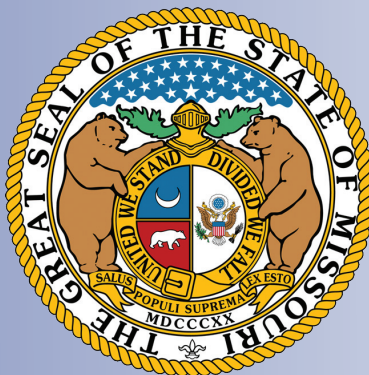
DISASTER RECOVERY

With 15 emergency declarations during his tenure, Missouri residents have faced a record blizzard, major ice storm, severe storms and tornadoes, unprecedented drought and historic flooding. As disasters have struck, Governor Nixon took immediate action to ensure his administration deployed the resources necessary to help those in need. The Governor's budget includes \$20 million to assist local communities recovering from disasters.

Last year, Governor Nixon issued an Executive Order to [streamline government operations](#) for disaster preparedness, planning and response. The Department of Public Safety can now seamlessly coordinate all federal, state, local, private sector and citizen emergency response and preparedness activities related to terrorism, natural disasters and pandemic events. The Governor also participated in a panel on disaster response at the [Clinton Global Initiative](#).



Governor Nixon participates in a Clinton Global Initiative panel on disaster preparedness and response.



PRODUCED JANUARY 2014

www.mo.gov